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INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 0909
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RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0523
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0417
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RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 0635
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 0142
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2027
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#) [IR](#) [SY](#) [LE](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY TO CONSIDER SCREENING SELECT IRANIAN AND
SYRIAN FLIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 77808
[B](#). ANKARA 1347
[C](#). ANKARA 1306

Classified By: Political-Military Counselor Carl Siebentritt, reasons 1
.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#). (S) Per ref a request, we approached the MFA South Asia Affairs and Aviation Affairs Departments to ask Turkey to deny overflight clearance to, or request inspection of, all Iranian and Syrian State aircraft that request overflight approval. South Asia Head of Department Murat Ahmet Yoruk questioned whether the US request is consistent with UNSCR 1747 as well as the definition of "State" aircraft, but promised to pass the request to his superiors. Yoruk acknowledged that, given the recent discovery of weapons on a train from Iran bound for Syria that was derailed in Turkey (ref b), his government would give the US request serious consideration.

[2](#). (S) Aviation Affairs Head of Department Hamit Olcay stated that, beginning with the US request to inspect Iranian contract aircraft in July 2006, he was given a blanket mandate to continue random inspections of Iranian and Syrian cargo and other charter aircraft transiting Turkey. In fact, Olcay said, he had intended to call for an inspection of a Syrian cargo plane on one leg of its transit from Syria to Iran and back to Syria last week even before the US requested Turkey to do so (ref c).

[3](#). (S) Olcay said that a decision to deny overflight or increase the number of plane inspection requests would be made by the South Asia Affairs Department. In Olcay's view, it would be difficult for Turkey to issue a blanket denial of all non-commercial Iranian and Syrian aircraft. However, he thought it might be possible for Turkey to increase the number of requests to inspect cargo and charter flights as well as any flights which make last minute flight plan changes, or appear suspicious for any other reason, and promised to advise us of any MFA decision in this regard.

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